MAY 1 9 2004

AF/1342

MAIL STOP AF PATENT 0503-1009

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Olivier MATILE

Confirmation No. 3030

Serial No. 10/077,950

GROUP 1742

Filed February 20, 2002

Examiner Scott R. Kastler

LASER CUTTING METHOD AND APPARATUS WITH A BIFOCAL OPTICAL MEANS AND A HYDROGEN-BASED ASSIST GAS

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL AND AFTER NOTICE OF APPEAL

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 19, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of January 21, 2004, and further to the Notice of Appeal filed March 30, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.